

ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

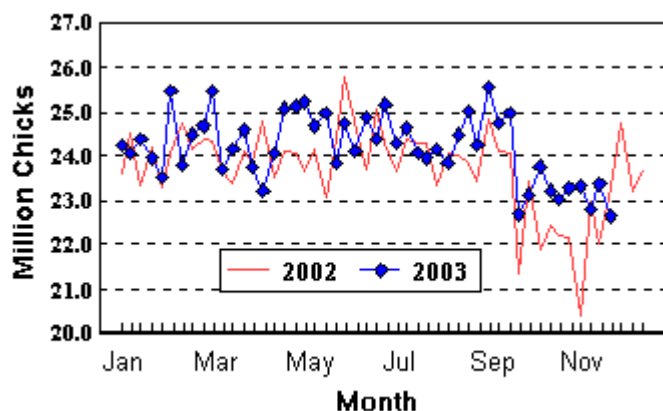
Broiler-type chicks placed for meat production in Arkansas was 22.7 million during the week ending December 6, 2003. Placements were down 3 percent from both the comparable week in 2002, and also from the previous week, and included 2.4 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 6, 2003 were 1.19 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type chicks hatched for the week was 24.7 million, up 2 percent from both the corresponding week a year earlier, and also from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 4.0 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.9 percent.

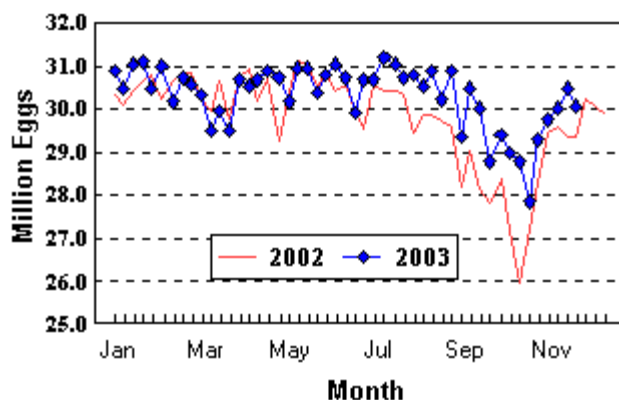
Arkansas hatcheries set 30.1 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending December 6, 2003, up 2 percent from the same period last year, but down 1 percent from the previous week.

Week Ending	NET PLACEMENTS			CHICKS HATCHED			EGGS SET		
	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change	2002	2003	% Change
	<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>			<i>1,000</i>		
Nov. 1	22,202	23,060	104	23,143	24,292	105	27,248	27,849	102
Nov. 8	22,150	23,263	105	22,589	24,131	107	28,284	29,303	104
Nov. 15	20,431	23,335	114	21,561	23,971	111	29,457	29,786	101
Nov. 22	22,968	22,777	99	22,459	23,123	103	29,624	29,996	101
Nov. 29	21,996	23,381	106	23,319	24,188	104	29,362	30,487	104
Dec. 6	23,291	22,652	97	24,209	24,698	102	29,336	30,058	102

CHICKS PLACED IN ARKANSAS, 2002-2003



EGGS SET, 2002 - 2003



BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2003

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov	06-Dec		01-Nov	08-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov	06-Dec	
Alabama	29,523 *	28,598	29,276	29,379	106	20,866	19,712	20,197	19,326	21,133	21,822	104
ARKANSAS	29,786	29,996	30,487	30,058	102	23,060	23,263	23,335	22,777	23,381	22,652	97
Delaware	3,544	3,546	3,785	3,828	112	4,616	4,836	4,306	4,901	5,638	4,892	91
Florida	1,353	1,352	1,352	1,354	78	1,518	1,525	1,664	1,491	1,809	1,595	76
Georgia	32,944 *	31,862	32,964	31,576	104	25,322	23,856	22,525	23,396	25,062	25,000	99
Kentucky	6,739	6,783 *	6,895 *	6,965	107	5,957	4,893	5,287	5,280 *	5,113 *	5,465	103
Maryland	8,417	8,752	8,753	8,763	88	5,418	4,490	5,270	5,636	5,188	5,299	101
Mississippi	18,276	18,389	19,027	19,237	103	14,983	14,254	15,291	14,292	15,146	15,738	104
N. Carolina	18,138 *	18,125	18,104	16,791	95	13,155	13,270	14,247 *	13,844 *	14,175 *	14,550	107
Oklahoma	6,400	6,391	6,312	6,358	100	3,924	5,143	4,374	4,255	4,476	5,858	129
Pennsylvania	3,711	3,751	3,606 *	3,549	98	2,505	2,370	2,489	2,564	2,655 *	2,678	112
S. Carolina	3,749	3,618	3,940	3,794	84	4,196	3,262	3,342	4,325	4,294	4,273	124
Texas	14,509 *	14,779 *	14,854 *	14,151	95	11,863	10,645 *	10,738	11,887	12,276	12,030	103
Virginia	6,591	6,622	6,622	6,438	108	5,130	5,168	5,629	4,953	4,527 *	5,822	120
CA,LA,MO,IN,WV	21,386 *	20,894 *	21,440 *	20,642	107	17,735 *	17,220	17,217 *	17,971 *	19,141 *	19,368	103
Total 2003	205,066 *	203,458 *	207,417 *	202,883		160,248 *	153,907 *	155,911 *	156,898 *	164,014 *	167,042	
Total 2002	199,041	200,518	202,537	199,994		155,287	151,790	147,970	154,972	161,690	161,841	
%Prev. Year	103	101	102	101		103	101	105	101	101	103	
Approximate Marketing Date 2003-2004.....						20-Dec	27-Dec	03-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	

* Revised . 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 203 million eggs during the week ending December 6, 2003. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 3 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 6, 2003. Placements were up 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through December 6, 2003 were 8.15 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.